

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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559-5/24/05

MEETING AGENDA OF THE

WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

Thursday, March 9, 2006

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

SCAG Offices

818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor

San Bernardino A&B Conference Rooms

Los Angeles, CA 90017

213.236.1800

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Dan Griset at 213.236.1895 or griset@scag.ca.gov.

SCAG, in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. If you require such assistance, please contact SCAG at (213) 236-1868 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable SCAG to make reasonable arrangements. To request documents related to this document in an alternative format, please contact (213) 236-1868.

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AGENDA
WATER POLICY TASK FORCE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

March 9, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Location of Meeting: SCAG Offices
818 W. 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90017

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public desiring to speak on an agenda item or another item, but within the purview of this Task Force, must notify staff to the Task Force prior to the meeting. At the discretion of the Chair public comments may be limited to three minutes.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the January 12, 2005 meeting. (Minutes will be available at the meeting and on the Task Force website: <http://www.scag.ca.gov/wptf/index.htm>)

4.0 PRESENTATION ITEM FOR THE TASK FORCE

4.1 Bacteria Water Impairments in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek: the Los Angeles CREST Planning Efforts in Support of TMDL Regulation 4

Donna Chen, with the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, will brief the Task Force on the City's initiative to support the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's obligation to adopt bacteria rules for the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek. **(20 Min)**

4.2 Progress Report on Integrated Regional Watershed Management Planning (IRWMP) 6

Rich Nagel, Co-General Manager of the West Basin Municipal Water District, will brief the Task Force on the regional organization of five proposal groups that are collaborating to gain state funding for watershed projects within the region. The Department of Water Resources has established grant funding criteria that now require watershed or regional groupings as a qualification for project funding. IRWMP is a response to this new funding criterion and reflects a level of watershed collaboration only recently envisioned. **(20 Min)**

- 4.3 Downey’s Comprehensive Strategy for Managing Stormwater Runoff 7**
- Dr. Gerry Greene, a water quality specialist with the City of Downey and a Task Force member, will introduce the Task Force to the City’s comprehensive effort to better manage its local water resources by implementing projects that minimize stormwater runoff and costly pollution controls. **(20 Min)**
- 4.4 A Proposed Local Outreach Program by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council 8**
- Drew Ready, a staff member of the Watershed Council, will present the features of a grant proposal developed by the Watershed Council for consideration by the California Department of Water Resources and the CalFed Watershed Program. The Task Force is asked to endorse the proposal, confirming SCAG’s interest in having a role as a partner in future outreach efforts contemplated by the proposed program. **(15 Min)**
- 4.5 Improving Public Information and Participation Programs (PIPP) 10**
- Melinda Barrett, Public Relations Chief for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, will brief the Task Force on recent discussions about the need for improving PIPP efforts within the region and the steps being taken to achieve greater information effectiveness and cost-efficiencies. A recent \$5 million public education program was implemented by one agency without any coordination with other agencies that already were active in the same media markets with similar water quality messages. **(10 Min)**
- 4.6 Status of Water Infrastructure Bond Proposals 11**
- March 10 is the stated deadline for legislative agreement on a Water Infrastructure Bond measure and the placement of a measure for the June ballot. Kathy Cole, the Sacramento legislative representative for Metropolitan Water District (MWD), will update the Task Force on any agreements that would qualify a water measure for the June ballot. **(15 Min)**
- 4.7 A Dialogue with the New General Manager for the Metropolitan Water District: Priorities for Southern California’s Water Future 12**
- On February 14, 2006, Jeff Kightlinger was appointed General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the largest water agency in the United States. Previously as MWD’s General Counsel, Mr. Kightlinger has been a key participant in many of the region’s recent major water initiatives and agreements. In his new capacity, Mr. Kightlinger is charged with securing the region’s supplemental water supplies and encouraging local projects that will substantially increase water conservation, reclamation and reuse. **(20 Min)**

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

6.0 STAFF REPORT

7.0 TASK FORCE INFORMATION SHARING

8.0 COMMENT PERIOD

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The next Task Force meeting will be held on May 11, 2006.

**Lunch is Sponsored by
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District**

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

March 9, 2006

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Bacteria Water Impairments in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek: the Los Angeles CREST Planning Efforts in Support of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Regulation*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The CREST Program (Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder TMDLs) is an initiated by the City of Los Angeles for the purpose of developing TMDLs to restore and protect water quality in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek.

The stated mission of the Program is “to restore and preserve beneficial uses of our rivers and creeks using a collaborative partnership to develop TMDLs and water quality attainment strategies with active and informed involvement by the community and stakeholders and by facilitating effective, innovative, practical, financially feasible and integrated solutions.”

TMDL development consists of seven distinct steps:

1. Problem Identification
2. Numeric Targets
3. Source Assessment
4. Linkage Analysis
5. Allocations
6. Implementation Strategy
7. Monitoring

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), and California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Regional Board) share responsibilities for the development of TMDLs in the Los Angeles Region. In December 2002, a joint Draft Strategy for Developing TMDLs and Attaining Water Quality Standards in the Los Angeles Region (Draft Strategy) was publicly circulated for consideration and comment.

In the Draft Strategy, the EPA and Regional Board offered interested stakeholders an opportunity to conduct a stakeholder-led TMDL development process. In response, the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation has taken the initiative to engage a diverse set of stakeholders to participate in the

CREST Program. The City provides staff and consultant support and helps administer the stakeholder-formulated work plan and deliverables. Although the City has taken the lead to organize and fund the CREST Program, all CREST members work collaboratively in an environment where all points of view and ideas are treated equally and are heard, discussed and considered.

The focus of CREST's work is on the development of TMDLs to meet water quality standards. There are several water quality attainment processes (i.e., 303(d) Listing, Basin Plan, Triennial Review of the Basin Plan, TMDL Implementation, TMDL Development). The scope of the CREST TMDL Development process is defined in the attached diagram of the CREST water quality attainment processes.

While there is an Implementation Strategy (Step 6) associated with the TMDL development process, it is important to differentiate this step from TMDL Implementation which follows TMDL Development. (TMDL implementation may be presented in the form of an Implementation Plan that is prepared after the issuance of a final TMDL.) To distinguish between these two stages of implementation planning, Step 6 (Implementation Strategy) and Step 7 (Monitoring) are called "Water Quality Attainment Strategies" in CREST terminology. The goals of the CREST program are to contribute toward the development of TMDLs to create sound, achievable, Water Quality Attainment Strategies that will set the direction for effective TMDL Implementation.

CREST Terminology

TMDL Development

Standard Sections of a TMDL:

1. Problem Identification
2. Numeric Targets
3. Source Assessment
4. Linkage Analysis
5. Allocations

6. Implementation Strategy

- *Broad Solutions*
- *Rough Budget Estimate*

7. Monitoring

- *Ambient Monitoring*
- *Compliance Monitoring*
- *Special Studies*

"Water Quality Attainment Strategies"

TMDL Implementation

"TMDL Implementation Plan"

- Site specific facilities and activities
- Descriptions and implementation schedule
- Prepared by jurisdictions

Example:

*Santa Monica Bay
Beaches*

*Bacteria TMDL
Implementation Plan*

**(Referred to as
"Report" in TMDL)**

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

March 9, 2005

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Progress Report on Integrated Regional Watershed Management Planning (IRWMP)*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

Proposition 50 included a section (Chapter 8) that emphasized the importance of regional, watershed planning. In fact, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources have decided that project funding will depend on the inclusion of projects within an actual watershed management plan. This funding will be available in two stages: \$148 million in 2006 and \$220 million in 2008.

This approach has created a major challenge for public entities in the Los Angeles Basin, comprised mainly of Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. The challenge: disparate public entities now need to create an integrated watershed management plan that brings entities together inside one implementing framework. To support the initial development of this new kind of comprehensive planning the state provided the Basin with \$1.5 million and a mandate to develop a planning strategy that joined together five sub-regions. These sub-regions, in turn, are responsible for developing their own comprehensive plans in which water projects are integrated within the sub-regional framework.

These sub-regions are defined as South Bay Watersheds, North Santa Monica Bay Watersheds, Upper Los Angeles River Watershed, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watersheds, and Upper San Gabriel Valley Watershed. Taken together these watersheds are 2,200 square miles and home to 9 million residents.

The intention of these Basin planning efforts, then, is to address water supply and water quality needs and objectives by integrating strategies and projects that include water conservation and recycling, desalination, conjunctive use, flood management, stormwater and urban runoff quality, wastewater quality, habitat restoration and protection, wetlands enhancement and creation, recreation and open space. Once the various sub-regional plans are completed they will be rolled up into one regional proposal for state funding.

It is expected that the initial application from the Basin will be in the range of \$20-30 million.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

March 9, 2005

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Downey's Comprehensive Strategy for Managing Stormwater Runoff*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

Downey has developed a comprehensive strategy for minimizing urban runoff rather than confronting the eventual challenges and costs of treating runoff once it has entered its storm drain system. This strategy supports project designs and operating systems that direct flows into vegetated medians and swales rather than into storm drains. The intended result is to expose stormwater flows to the natural treatment values of vegetation that remove certain pollutants and to encourage infiltration of these redirected flows by increasing pervious surfaces in new city projects.

This strategy is being implemented in the following local settings: large commercial sites (shopping mall and supermarket), small commercial sites (fast food and large strip mall), parking lots (recreational, high school and MTA parking lots), multi-family residential, single family residential, street construction and a retail gas outlet.

The City operates this strategy in conjunction with the Regional Board's rules on runoff limitations defined in the Standard Urban Stormwater Management Plan (SUSMP). Comments about the operating characteristics of the SUSMP policy will be addressed in Mr. Greene's presentation.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

March 9, 2005

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *A Proposed Local Outreach Program by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direct the Executive Director to send a letter to the Watershed Council indicating SCAG's support for the outreach program and SCAG's interest in partnering with the Watershed Council to educate local officials and mobilize interest in the key issues of watershed management within the region.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this grant application by the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council is to develop a Los Angeles County Watershed Education Network for Public Officials. The funding for the proposed program is from the Department of Water Resources and the CALFED Watershed program. The mission of this new program is to reduce the use of imported water in Los Angeles County through educating public officials about the relationship between integrated water management, the optimal use of local water resources, enhanced water quality, natural resource protection, and preservation of open space.

Through this grant, the Watershed Council proposes to do the following:

Develop a Los Angeles County-focused Watershed Primer and Tutorial. As an on-line resource for public officials, the primer and tutorial will provide both an on-line course on watershed topics and a resource for "where to go" for all you need to know about our watersheds.

Create the position of Watershed Ambassador. The Watershed Ambassador will participate in watershed activities throughout the County, thus connecting groups working in different regions, and will be available to speak on various watershed related topics. The Ambassador will work with established organizations that work with elected officials, such as the Councils of Government, to increase educational opportunities for their members.

Expand Information Exchange about Watersheds. Building on the Watershed Council's already substantial resources for information exchange, we will expand to include all elected and key policy-level staff to enable sharing of relevant information in a format that is appropriate to the needs of the target audience.

Program Evaluation and Improvement. The Watershed Council's program will be grounded in a philosophy of program evaluation and improvement. We will ensure that this program is making its mark to achieve our goals.

Sustainability. The grant is for about two years of education, but we think this program needs to continue beyond the term of the grant. We will work to ensure that this program is sustained, so long as the need exists, through partnering with other organizations and funding sources.

The program will be deemed to be successful if it results in wide support among public officials for watershed planning that encourages multiple benefits. More public officials will understand how watersheds connect to local and statewide sources of drinking water and will have the knowledge and desire to develop strategies that protect the quality and reliability of sources of drinking water. These officials will have a greater capacity to conduct coordinated planning for flood protection and recovery of beneficial habitat for listed and protected species. The impact of the project will be higher quality and improved supplies of local water, resulting in reduced use of imported water from the Bay-Delta system.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

March 9, 2005

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Improving Public Information and Participation Programs (PIPP)*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direct staff to continue supporting efforts to improve the coordination and integration of local public information efforts and to encourage regulators to use more comprehensive and media-wise frameworks for setting permit requirements.

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting in November 2006 the Task Force deferred taking action on a resolution supporting a State Water Board funded program called “Erase the Waste”. This action was taken in response to concerns expressed by Los Angeles County and other local governments about a lack of coordination among the various entities responsible for advertising and public outreach. This outreach is typically required by stormwater and other discharge permits and is intended to raise public awareness about the importance of water stewardship and pollution prevention.

The “Erase the Waste” program focused these concerns about a lack of coordination between public information efforts in Los Angeles County. Following the State Board’s adoption of the program and allocation of \$5 million from a penalties and fines account the program implementation occurred without any consideration of the many other efforts already underway, resulting in duplication of water quality advertising in identical media markets, variation in message themes and inefficient uses of more than \$10 million in overall funding.

In view of these concerns and the Task Force’s interest in finding ways to improve public information efforts, staff organized a discussion on February 27 between the agencies responsible for these efforts and Jerry Secundy, a newly-confirmed member of the State Water Resources Control Board. A key participant in this meeting was Melinda Barrett, Chief of Public Relations for the County’s Public Works Department, who will report on the results of the meeting.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

March 9, 2005

TO: *Members of the Water Policy Task Force*

FROM: *Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov*

SUBJECT: *Status of Water Infrastructure Bond Proposals*

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

Various proposals have been advanced that deal with water infrastructure issues in a statewide framework that includes other issues such as transportation, education and healthcare. Negotiations are ongoing and have created a very dynamic legislative environment that makes early documentation of proposals nearly meaningless. In view of this the Task Force will have an oral report from Kathy Cole, the legislative representative of Metropolitan Water District in Sacramento, on the status of these negotiations. This report precedes by only hours the announced deadline for measures that will go to the June ballot statewide.

MEMORANDUM TO THE WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

November 10, 2005

TO: ***Members of the Water Policy Task Force***

FROM: ***Daniel E. Griset, Sr. Regional Planner, 213.236.1895, griset@scag.ca.gov***

SUBJECT: ***A Dialogue with the New General Manager for the Metropolitan Water District: Priorities for Southern California's Water Future***

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive for future policy consideration.

BACKGROUND:

With its headquarters adjacent to Union Station, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) has an annual operating/capital budget of \$1.7 billion and about 1,900 employees dispersed through out more than 30 facilities throughout Southern California. Jeff Kightlinger, as the newly appointed General Manager, is responsible for implementing policies set by the 37-member board that represents MWD's 26 member agencies. He is Metropolitan's chief spokesman and works with federal, state and local officials, both elected and appointed, to carry out the district's mission.

As Metropolitan's lead attorney on Colorado River matters, he recently played a principal role in forging a tentative agreement among the seven basin states over plans to deal with shortages on the River. He also played a significant role in negotiating a plan to bring California's water use into compliance with its legal apportionment of Colorado River supplies and a 50-year multi-species habitat conservation program along the Lower Colorado River.

An eighth generation native Californian, Kightlinger joined Metropolitan in 1995 as a senior deputy general counsel and served as assistant general counsel from 2000-02. Early in his Metropolitan tenure, he worked on the agency's litigation involving the closure of Azusa Landfill and on the district's Arvin-Edison water storage and transfer program.

Prior to joining Metropolitan's legal staff in 1995, Kightlinger worked in private practice specializing in environmental law. He has represented numerous public agencies such as municipalities, redevelopment agencies and special districts. He spent a year specializing in environmental law at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., while working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and a law degree from the University of Santa Clara.